

BOOK REVIEWS

In the previous issue (Coleopt. Bull. 25(2):50) I reviewed catalogues of types in 2 collections. Two additional such papers were brought to my attention by Mr. Herbert Dozier, and they are reviewed here. The editor would appreciate notification of similar lists or catalogues for use in future issues.

Catalogo dos tipos de insectos do Instituto de Ecologia e Experimentacao Agricolas by Walter Zikan & Petr Wygodzinsky. 1949. Boletim do Servico Nacional de Pesquisas Agronomicas, Ministerio da Agricultura (Rio de Janeiro), No. 4; 94p.

This list includes all insects, the Coleoptera being listed on p. 23-66. The collection, on which this list is based, was founded in 1915 at the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro; in 1920 it was transferred under the Biological Institute for Protection of Agriculture; in 1933 to the Institute of Plant Biology; and later the Institute of Ecological and Experimental Agriculture under the National Service of Agricultural Research.

As of Mar. 31, 1948, it contained about 100,000 specimens representing from 20,000 to 25,000 species. In the following list, numbers in parentheses after each family represent the number of species represented by types (holotypes, allotypes, paratypes, cotypes): Dytiscidae (4), Carabidae (1), Cucujidae (5), Meloidae (6), Buprestidae (2), Chrysomelidae (9), Passalidae (4), Lucanidae (5), Scarabaeidae (4), Scolytidae (4), Brentidae (3), Curculionidae (13), and Cerambycidae (313). The great number of Cerambycidae is the result of work by Melzer.

There is an index of families and genera and a page of errata. All label data are listed for each entry. I am certain this collection has grown at a rapid rate and the list is far out of date. It would be very useful for a supplement to be prepared.

A list of zoological and botanical types preserved in collections in Southern and East Africa. Vol. I—Zoology. 1958. Published by the South African Museum's Association; 147p. (Probably out of print, but maybe available from: Director, Transvaal Museum, P. O. Box 413, Pretoria, South Africa).

This list includes all animals, the Coleoptera being listed on p. 20-29. Represented are: Anthicidae (1), Anthribidae (1), Buprestidae (57), Carabidae (57), Cerambycidae (11), Chrysomelidae (75), Curculionidae (111), Dasytidae (2), Dytiscidae (3), Gyrinidae (1), Histeridae (1), Hydrophilidae (6), Languriidae (1), Lycidae (2), Malachiidae (2), Mordellidae (4), Paussidae (2), Ptinidae (1), Scarabaeidae (29), Scydmaenidae (1), Staphylinidae (23), and Tenebrionidae (67).

The holdings are listed up to 1955. Under each entry is listed the museum where it is housed, the number of specimens, and the kind of type.

The systematic biology collections of the United States; Part I. The great collections: their nature, importance, condition, and future. 1971. Available from the New York Botanical Garden, The Bronx, N. Y., 10458.

This is an interesting report to the National Science Foundation by the Conference of Directors of Systematic Collections. Unfortunately the authors are not listed, because someone should get credit for the enormous amount of work involved and the straightforward way the report is presented. Money is obviously one of the keys to the future of our museums, and many of the needs are consolidated in this report. I am sure that every taxonomist has long realized the dilemmas of inadequate space, insufficient supporting staff, meagre support for field work and travel, and the general lack of concern about irreplaceable museum collections. I hope this report will help to bring many of these problems to the forefront, not only to NSF, but to the federal and state legislatures who are ultimately responsible for providing the appropriations to support essential museum activities and assuring the preservation of these collections. Faunal and floral studies, verified by museum specimens, are as important a part of "environmentalism" as all the anti-pollution campaigns. We should at least know what we have destroyed.—R. E. Woodruff.